



Department of Justice

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**IN SECOND ATTEMPT, LOUISVILLE BUSINESSMAN CONVICTED OF BUYING
STOLEN OVER THE COUNTER PHARMACEUTICALS**

*– Eyad Suleiman found guilty of purchasing millions of dollars worth of
stolen over the counter pharmaceuticals*

– Associate of Suleiman also convicted of interfering with a juror during first trial

LOUISVILLE, KY - Eyad Suleiman, age 43, of Louisville, Kentucky, owner of Alpha Trading Company, was found guilty on May 31, 2007, by a federal jury in the United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky, of knowingly receiving and possessing stolen over the counter pharmaceuticals valued at over \$5,000. A former Alpha Trading Company employee testified that over an eight-month period in 2005, while he was free on bond on another federal indictment, Suleiman sold over \$16 million of stolen pharmaceuticals. He paid about \$4 million for the drugs.

Suleiman is still facing charges from a federal Grand Jury Indictment issued in December 2003. He is charged with receiving stolen infant formula and federal tax violations for not reporting almost \$3,000,000 in gross profits from his illegal operation.

The jury's guilty verdict was returned following a six-day trial before Jennifer B. Coffman, Judge, United States District Court. The first trial of Suleiman, in April, ended in a mistrial. During the voir dire phase of the April trial, a member of the jury panel was excused because she had a business acquaintanceship with an associate of Suleiman's named Muhammad Alhandan. After the juror was excused, Alhandan engaged in intimidating communication with

the juror at her place of employment, resulting in his arrest and detention for 84 days. In June, 2006, Alhandan was convicted of the offense of willfully impeding and interfering with the performance of the juror's duties and responsibilities. During this same trial, a mistrial resulted on the first day when a witness for the United States made an inadvertent reference to inadmissible matters.

In Suleiman's second trial, another cooperating witness for the United States, who testified on her specific experience with Suleiman, testified that on a given day, she would steal approximately \$10,000 to \$20,000 of over the counter pharmaceuticals from various Walgreens stores located in communities throughout the United States, including those in the Louisville area. She testified that she was able to successfully remove the stolen articles from stores by using a large purse lined with aluminum, which prevented the security devices from alarming when she left the stores. She testified that she would transport the stolen goods to Suleiman's business, Alpha Trading Company, which is located at 4848 Jennings Lane in Louisville. The stolen goods would then be sold to Suleiman for about one-third the retail price. That witness is now serving time in federal prison.

A former Alpha Trading Company employee later testified that Suleiman would buy over the counter pharmaceuticals from people coming off the street with bags full of mixed product and would pay these individuals approximately one third of the manufacturer's price. Suleiman would then segregate and repackage the over the counter pharmaceuticals by product and sell them to wholesale companies throughout the country. The witness described how products coming into Alpha Trading were "cleaned" to remove any identifying store labels. Security tags, both interior and exterior ones, were also removed and shredded. During the period January 1, 2005 through September 2, 2005, Suleiman paid approximately \$4.3 Million to individuals walking into Alpha Trading Company with over the counter pharmaceuticals, most of which

were paid approximately one-third retail prices for the products.

Though the crime for which Suleiman was convicted by the jury was committed while he was under bond imposed by the court as a result of other charges against him returned by a federal grand jury in December 2003, Suleiman still remains free on bond awaiting sentencing on this conviction, and trial on the December 2003 Indictment.

The Organized Retail Crime Division Coordinator for Walgreens Corporation testified regarding the impact of this type of theft on the company stating that each year approximately \$700 Million in over the counter pharmaceuticals is stolen from Walgreens stores throughout the country. He also testified that retail businesses in the United states suffer \$34 Billion in losses annually due to organized shoplifting.

The maximum potential penalties facing Suleiman as a result of the jury's guilty verdict are 10 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 3 years.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James R. Lesousky and was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Suleiman is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Coffman on September 17, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., in Louisville, Kentucky.

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